

Filed for intro on 02/27/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SJR0076  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Douglas D. Paschall  
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the untimely passing of Dr. Douglas D. Paschall, a gentleman of the utmost honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall had served with acumen and industry as the Headmaster at Montgomery Bell Academy of Nashville for six years prior to his death; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall was truly a Renaissance man who could find grace equally in a poet's turn of phrase and a second baseman's unassisted double play; and

WHEREAS, although Dr. Paschall frequently led by his powerful, well-chosen words, it was his example that made others proud to follow him; and

WHEREAS, fundamentally, a teacher, he had the enaging qualities that made others trust his counsel and seek to emulate his virtues; and

WHEREAS, even after students had left him, they carried with them a self-esteem made possible by an awareness of his own great accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, as Headmaster of MBA, Dr. Paschall articulated a vision of intellectual growth to expand his concept of scholastic community; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding teacher and administrator realized that the recognition of individual excellence did not detract from celebration of all in the community; knowing that mastery would come from submission to academic studies, he suggested that everyone submit to such disciplines; and

WHEREAS, during his excellent six-year tenure at MBA, the school underwent a transformation with the birth of a new curriculum, expanded opportunity, and beautiful facilities dedicated to developing students into well-rounded gentlemen with an enhanced appreciation for the arts; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Paschall's inspired leadership, the Joe C. Davis Building was constructed to provide an atmosphere suitable for artistic endeavors, and for the first time in the school's history, musical performances, art exhibits and theater productions became a mainstay of the MBA community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall promoted a policy of inclusiveness during his superb tenure at MBA, and, by his sterling example, he encouraged students to understand and accept the differences of others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall brought about diversity at MBA without compromising the school's commitment to the pursuit of academic and athletic excellence; and

WHEREAS, by means of his eloquent speeches, his mesmerizing class lectures and his genuine smile, Dr. Paschall captured the respect and affection of faculty, staff, parents and students alike; and

WHEREAS, during his administration, MBA students experienced remarkable success at art shows, and the school's sports program was recognized as one of the state's best by the TSSAA; this type of balance would not have been possible without Dr. Paschall's influence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall created new theater and music programs at MBA and he was a key element in the renovation of Ball and Wallace Hall; and

WHEREAS, the MBA philosophy has always been to develop each student as a "gentleman, scholar and athlete"; Dr. Paschall truly epitomized this ideal; and

WHEREAS, his unique teaching method ensured that each and every student participated with an excitement and eagerness for learning; his constant praise and positive outlook gave each student a sense of belonging and accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Paschall's greatest gifts was his ability to relate to his students, and he taught these young men not only to be scholars, athletes and gentlemen, but also to have tolerance and compassion for others; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery Bell Academy has named its theater and performance hall in honor of Dr. Paschall and his legacy of commitment and service to his fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall was reared in Henry County, Tennessee, where his parents taught in secondary schools and ran a small farm; and

WHEREAS, the oldest of three children, Dr. Paschall credited his parents with fostering an equal appreciation of books, music and athletic prowess in him and in his two brothers; and

WHEREAS, he graduated as Valedictorian of his class from McKenzie High School, having also won All-Conference and All-State recognition in football and basketball, and such diverse academic distinctions as competing in the National Spelling Bee and winning the National Council of Teachers of English Award for Writing; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Paschall was a Georgia M. Wilkins Scholar while an undergraduate at the University of the South, and was also captain and an All-Conference player for the Sewanee football team coached by the legendary Shirley Majors; and

WHEREAS, he also distinguished himself as President of the Order of Gownsmen (student government and academic honor society), a Proctor, a four-year officer of the University Chair and as an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship Winner; and

WHEREAS, he earned membership in Phi Beta Kappa during his junior year at Sewanee, and graduated in the Class of 1966 Magna Cum Laude and winner of the Guerry Award for Excellence in English; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall's graduate studies in English literature were all undertaken and completed at Christ Church (College), The University of Oxford, where he enrolled in 1966 as a Rhodes Scholar; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Oxford, Douglas Paschall forged a lasting friendship with a young Bill Clinton; while serving as governor of Arkansas many years later, President Clinton would often confer with Dr. Paschall about education reform; and

WHEREAS, during the 1993 Christmas season, the entire Paschall family were overnight guests at the White House; President Clinton and Dr. Paschall greatly enjoyed this opportunity to reflect fondly on their friendship which spanned almost 25 years; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his graduate degrees, Dr. Paschall taught for seven semesters at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga before returning to the University of the South, as professor of English; and

WHEREAS, for eighteen years, he served his alma mater astutely in various positions, including those of Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of Admissions; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Dr. Paschall departed his "fully adequate intellectual and spiritual home" and the "ideal environment" of Sewanee to accept the position of Headmaster at Montgomery Bell Academy; and

WHEREAS, although it was a difficult decision to leave Sewanee, Dr. Paschall felt that at a school like MBA he would have a greater opportunity to influence the lives of young people; he certainly made the most of this opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall was always a public-spirited citizen who considered civic service to be a privilege rather than a duty; he was active in numerous statewide organizations, including the Tennessee Humanities Council and served as founding editor of the organization's magazine Touchstone; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a member and Chairman of the Literary Panel of the Tennessee Arts Commission for a number of years, and planned such events as the Homecoming "86 Literary Festival"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paschall was also a widely published critic and scholar, and he edited and introduced a collection of contemporary writing by Tennessee authors entitled Homewords, which was published by the University of Tennessee Press; and

WHEREAS, it has been truthfully said that Douglas Paschall accomplished more in 50 years than most people accomplish in 70 or 80 years; and

WHEREAS, he led an amazingly productive life - teaching and being involved with young people and their development; his life was truly one of virtue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Douglas D. Paschall, Headmaster of MBA, reflecting fondly upon his bountiful life of academic excellence and compassion for his students, and his unwavering commitment to living the examined life with liberality and courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.